

Minutes for the Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

June 5, 2007

Georgetown Visitation School, 35th and Volta Place, Heritage Room

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM by Commissioner Solomon, Chair, with Commissioners Lewis, Lowenstein, Solomon and Starrels present, constituting a quorum. Before the first vote was taken, Commissioners Birch, Skelsey and Eason joined the meeting.

GRANT APPROVALS

ANC 2E received requests for grants from the following organizations, which requests are on file at the Commission's office: Hyde Elementary School PTA; Citizens Association of Georgetown; Burleith Citizens Association; Georgetown Senior Center; Georgetown Emergency Response Medical Service; Second District Citizens Advisory Council (2 grant proposals); and The Friends of Book Hill Park. A representative of each organization made a presentation about the requested grant and responded to questions from Commissioners and the community. During discussion, the representative of the Citizens Association of Georgetown clarified that its proposed grant would be for the private guard component of its public safety program and not for reimbursement to MPD for MPD officers.

The commission had previously considered budgeting \$5,000.00 for possible grants. The amount of the grants requested totaled \$7,111.00. Commissioner Lewis moved (Eason second) to approve budgeting an amount for grants at this time of \$7,111.00. After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 6-0-1 (Birch abstaining).

Commissioner Lewis moved (Starrels second) to approve the following grants:

Hyde Elementary School PTA, for magazine subscriptions for the school library, as requested: \$611.00

Citizens Association of Georgetown, for the guard component of CAG's public safety program, as requested: \$1,000

Burleith Citizens Association, for signs to identify and welcome people to Burleith, as requested: \$1,000.00

Georgetown Senior Center, for providing transportation for house-bound seniors, as requested: \$1,000.00

Georgetown Emergency Response Medical Service, to defray tuition-cost increases in the EMT-B training class for its trainees, as requested: \$1,000.00

Second District Citizens Advisory Council, for the CAC-sponsored youth summer camp for children ages 6-13, as requested: \$1,000.00

Second District Citizens Advisory Council, for the CAC-sponsored plaques awarded for outstanding service to Second District MPD officers, as requested: \$1,000.00

The Friends of Book Hill Park, for improvements and beautification of "Book Hill Park," as requested: \$500.00

The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0.

POLICE REPORT

Commander Solberg reported that based on an analysis of resource allocations within MPD's Second District, he will be redeploying additional MPD officers to PSA 206. Twelve officers will be assigned to foot patrols within PSA 206, between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Two additional officers will be assigned to the waterfront for 10-hour shifts from 6 p.m. to 4 a.m. Thursdays through Sundays, and two officers will be assigned to patrolling by mountain bikes during the evening shift. These will mostly be in addition to the current roster of officers assigned to PSA 206. Commissioners, members of ANC 2E's public safety committee, and community members expressed appreciation for these deployments.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of ANC 2E held on May 1, 2007 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Eason (Solomon second) by a vote of 7-0.

Approval of Quarterly Financial Report

Commissioner Eason, ANC 2E's Treasurer, presented a quarterly financial report for the first quarter of the calendar year (the second quarter of the fiscal year). The report was approved on a motion by Commissioner Skelsey (Lowenstein second) by a vote of 7-0.

COMMUNITY COMMENT

New Meeting Time for MPD's Partnership for Problem Solving. Commissioner Solomon announced that Lt. Lucas would hold future Partnership for Problem Solving meetings at the MPD Second District Station on the second Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m., beginning June 9.

Dumbarton House "Diamond Jubilee." Bill Birdseye, Director of Dumbarton House, announced that Dumbarton House will celebrate its 75th anniversary this year and invited the community to visit and enjoy this federal period historic house and museum.

Plans for the Georgetown Branch Library. Ginny Cooper, Chief Librarian, described plans and techniques for restoring materials in the Peabody Collection following the fire at the Georgetown Branch Library; announced that a bookmobile will operate temporarily in the Jelleff parking lot; described the process and timetable for deciding where to locate an interim library during reconstruction of the Georgetown library building; and announced that community input would be solicited on reconstruction plans for the library.

The Future of the Georgetown Park Mall. Ben Miller of Western Development Company, owner of the Georgetown Park Mall, described his company's initial thinking on possible renovations and said his company wants to work with the community in developing any plans.

Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services. Sean Howard of the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services addressed the community about his availability as a resource for problem-solving with respect to D.C. government agencies.

NEW BUSINESS

ABC Matters

ABC Consent Calendar

On May 29, 2007, the ANC gave notice to the community listing certain establishments that are up for ABC license renewal, with a petition dates of June 11, June 25 and July 2, that will not be reviewed at this time by the ANC unless a request to do so is received by the ANC by June 4. Other than for The Guards, 2915 M Street, which was removed from the list and considered separately, see below, no such request had been received as of the time of this meeting. Commissioner Starrels asked if there was a motion to consider any of the remaining listed establishments at this time, and there was no motion.

The Guards

Commissioners, community members and a representative of The Guards, 2915 M Street, discussed neighbor complaints about late-night noise and crowds, trash at the rear, and other issues. Commissioner Birch moved (Starrels second) to adopt the following motion, which passed by a vote of 6-0-1 (Lowenstein abstaining):

In the interest of establishing peace, order and quiet, ANC 2E protests the renewal of the license for The Guards located at 2915 M Street with the view toward a voluntary agreement to address the issues of concern.

Mortons of Chicago and Rugby Café

Commissioner Starrels reported that discussions toward voluntary agreements are proceeding with Mortons of Chicago and with Rugby Café and that he would report subsequently on further developments.

Leopold's Kafe

Commissioners and community members discussed a proposed voluntary agreement with Leopold's Kafe related to the applicant's request for 75 additional seats and an entertainment endorsement to allow a cover charge. A copy of the agreement is in the ANC's files. After discussion, Commissioner Starrels moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E accepts the negotiated voluntary agreement with Leopold's Kafe; authorizes any ANC 2E Commissioner to execute the agreement on behalf of ANC 2E; and, upon execution of the agreement by all parties, withdraws its protest in this matter.

Special Items

The Nation's Triathlon

Charles Brodsky, representing The Nation's Triathlon, discussed plans to hold the Triathlon in Washington, D.C. on September 29 and requested the support of ANC 2E. After discussion, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E endorses the Nation's Triathlon scheduled for Saturday, September 29, 2007.

Taste of Georgetown

Juanita Crabb, representing the Georgetown Business Improvement District, discussed plans to hold the Taste of Georgetown event on Wisconsin Avenue below M Street on October 13. She said that as many as 7,500 people would be expected this year and that particular attention would be paid to safe and efficient pedestrian and traffic flow. After discussion, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E endorses the Taste of Georgetown scheduled for October 13, 2007 and hopes for a successful event.

Request to NPS to Replace No Bike Parking Signs at Washington Harbour

Commissioner Starrels pointed out the need to replace No Bike Parking signage at Washington Harbor. After discussion, Commissioner Starrels moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports working with the National Park Service in getting No Bike Parking signs replaced in the vicinity of Washington Harbour.

Whitehurst Freeway EIS Study

Commissioners and community members discussed a possible environmental impact study of possible deconstruction or other alternatives for the Whitehurst Freeway. After discussion, Commissioner Starrels moved (Eason second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 4-3 (Skelsey, Birch and Lowenstein opposed):

Whereas the deconstruction of the Whitehurst Freeway has the potential of enhancing the waterfront in Georgetown and its uses for the District of Columbia as a whole;

Whereas, the EIS to be worth the sizeable investment must be a better researched and executed study than the study ended in 2006. Stronger leadership, management and ongoing work must be required and demonstrated in EIS;

Whereas, the study area needs to be expanded. The initial study includes Canal road to Foxhall Road to the West, 19th Street to East, the Potomac River to the south and only M Street to the North. The study area has to include streets north to Reservoir Road.

Traffic is like water; it will find the point of least resistance. If the Whitehurst is taken down, the traffic has to go and will go somewhere. East-West and West – East traffic will use streets north of M Street. It is likely the P Street and Q Street will become more heavily traveled.

Whereas, Congress has to be brought into the process. Since the Federal Highway is paying the lion's share of any deconstruction of the Whitehurst and because the Whitehurst is heavily used by commuters from Maryland and Virginia, it is imperative that the study includes key staff from Congressional delegations that are affected by the Whitehurst.

Whereas a commitment needs to be made to make the alternative pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Great weight should be given to pedestrian and bicycle uses of the area.

Whereas the uses of the waterfront, including the warm weather activities enjoyed by thousands at Washington Harbour and the 14-screen cinema must be part of the traffic studies.

Whereas there are numerous garages, loading docks and cross walks along K Street under the Whitehurst and they must be taken into account in the EIS.

Whereas the EIS should enhance all aspects of the environment and how the roadway enhances the new parkland.

The EIS should take into account the impact of traffic for all areas of Georgetown and the District of Columbia as a whole

Let it be resolved that ANC2E supports the funding of the EIS study on the Whitehurst Freeway by Federal Highway and the District of Columbia.

Jelleff Boys and Girls Club

Commissioners and community members discussed recently announced plans by the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington to seek to sell the property now occupied by the Jelleff Boys and Girls Club Branch and expressed concerns about such a sale and development. After discussion, Commissioner Eason moved (Birch second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0 (Commissioner Starrels not present at the time):

Whereas, on April 26, 2007 the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (BGCGW) announced its plans to seek Requests For Proposals for the sale and development of its Jelleff Boys & Girls Club Branch, located at 3265 S Street, NW, which is within the boundaries of ANC 2E, and,

Whereas, said sale and development might result in a closure of the Jelleff club, and

Whereas, for decades, the Jelleff Branch of BGCGW has run extremely affordable youth programs that have served and continue to serve thousands of children and families from the community and the city at-large, and

Whereas, green, outdoor recreational space is at a premium in the District, and particularly in Ward 2, which has very limited recreation facilities,

Now, therefore, by ANC 2E, due to the essential role that Jelleff plays in providing youth programming in its facility and on its playing field, the Commission registers its opposition to the BGCGW plans for the sale of the property for development and to the closure of the Jelleff Boys and Girls Club.

Zoning and Planning

OGB Consent Calendar: Commissioner Birch moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

The following item is considered to be on ANC 2E's Consent Calendar and will be sent to the Old Georgetown Board and other agencies without objection:

3228 O Street, Perlman residence (OGB 07-171)

Georgetown Waterfront Park, pergola and river stairs: John Parsons, representing the National Park Service, presented revised concept plans for elements of the Georgetown Waterfront Park, including a pergola and riverfront stairs. Commissioners and community members discussed the plans with Mr. Parsons. In response to a question about costs, Mr. Parsons said around \$8 million would be required and that some of that might come from the federal government. Mr. Parsons said if the needed funds had not been raised by the end of this year, he would consider redesigning for a less expensive alternative. After discussion, Commissioner Starrels moved (Lowenstein second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports the concept as presented by the National Park Service.

Potomac Street and 33rd Street, Caton's Walk (OGB 07-098): Plans were presented for alterations, additions and rooftop additions to this property. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E appreciates the overall concept as presented. ANC 2E is sensitive to the height of the buildings, especially those on Potomac Street and west toward 33rd Street. ANC 2E thinks the height of the addition on the industrial building on 33rd Street is too tall and interferes with the historic character of the three houses on this block. The alley needs to be open permanently to the public. ANC 2E sends the project forward for further review with these concerns.

3034 M Street, EastBanc (OGB 07-079): Revised plans were presented for a 3rd floor addition and alterations. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Starrels moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which failed to pass on a tie vote of 3-3 (Commissioners Birch, Skelsey and Lowenstein opposed, Commissioner Eason not present at the time):

ANC 2E has concerns about the concept as presented because of the historical significance of M Street and the section of Thomas Jefferson Street the building occupies, the proximity across M Street of the Old Stone House, and the proximity to the south of the canal.

Commissioner Birch then moved (Skelsey second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E supports the concept as presented with consideration that the addition to the façade on Thomas Jefferson Street be compatible with the historic fabric of these buildings.

3305-3313 Prospect Street, Wormley School townhouses (OGB 07-164): Plans were presented for a permit for 6 row houses on the Wormley School property. After

discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E is concerned about two issues regarding the proposed townhouses:

- the location of a proposed sanitary sewer for street access within what appears to be approximately six feet of a large tree: and
- the proposed attic loft rooms which provide easy access to the roof as well as overly large, clumsy forms on the roof out of character with typical roof forms in Georgetown.

1310 Wisconsin Avenue, Hotel Ralph Pucci (OGB 07-097): Revised plans were presented for alterations to the 1st floor level and garage, replacement of windows, and mechanical equipment on the roof. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed on a vote of 7-0:

ANC 2E is very concerned about the size and appearance of the mechanical penthouse and notes we were not given sufficient information to assess this issue. We express a preference for “Option C” for the Wisconsin Avenue façade.

3251 Prospect Street, Café Milano (OGB 07-175): (Commissioner Birch left the meeting at this point.) Plans were presented for an addition, air conditioning equipment and a fence. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

ANC 2E supports the plans as presented for 3251 Prospect Street.

1645 31st Street, Williams-Addison House, subdivision request (HPA 07-267): Plans were presented for a subdivision of this property to permit a second house to be built. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-1 (Lowenstein opposed):

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E (the “Commission”) objects to the addition of a second dwelling on the Landmark Property designated as 1645-31st Street, NW, and also known as the “Williams-Addison House” and the “Friendly Estate” (the “Property”), and objects to subdividing the Property. The Commission has voted unanimously no less than six times over the past year to approve resolutions expressing its opposition to the proposed development of the Property.

The Commission states its strong objections to subdividing the Williams-Addison house property. Subdivision would be inconsistent with the historic importance of this landmark property as a whole. In addition, the proposed subdivision would create a contorted “pipe-stem” lot, with supposed access through mature trees and even

potentially through existing buildings. The proposal would in fact create access via Avon Lane, a narrow public alley, to which such access is unauthorized and undesirable.

We urge the Historic Preservation Review Board to protect the integrity of this property by denying the application for subdivision.

1645 31st Street (OGB 07-127): This item was on the agenda but the Commission did not discuss the design aspects of the latest plans under consideration by the Old Georgetown Board, leaving in place the Commission’s earlier resolutions to the Old Georgetown Board on design proposals for this property.

1645 31st Street – Landmark Amendment Application: The Commission considered a request from community members to sponsor and support an application to the Historic Preservation Review Board to amend and supplement the information in support of the property’s landmark status. After discussion by the Commission, the community and the property owner, Commissioner Eason moved (Lewis second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-0:

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E (the “Commission”) objects to the addition of a second dwelling on the Landmark Property designated as 1645-31st Street, NW, and also known as the “Williams-Addison House” and the “Friendly Estate” (the “Property”), and objects to subdividing the Property. The Commission has voted unanimously no less than six times over the past year to approve resolutions expressing its opposition to the proposed development of the Property.

The Williams-Addison House was one of the very first properties to be designated a Historic Landmark by the District of Columbia in 1964. The District of Columbia did not at that time include the same type of detailed information as would be required today in an application to designate a property as a Historic Landmark, and so the Historic Designation for the Williams-Addison House does not contain a detailed description of the historic significance of the property.

The Friends of the Williams-Addison House, an unincorporated organization of neighbors dedicated to the preservation of the Williams-Addison House Property, has offered to work with the Commission to engage and retain EHT Tracerics, Inc., a research and consulting firm specializing in architectural history and historic preservation, to prepare an application to amend the existing Historic Landmark designation for the Williams-Addison House so that it includes all available and relevant information about the property, its historic significance, and the basis for its qualification as a Historic Landmark under the District of Columbia Historic District and Historic Landmark Protection Act of 1978; and

The Friends of the Williams-Addison House has agreed to bear all cost and expense in preparation and prosecution of such an application to amend the existing Historic Landmark designation for the Williams-Addison House. The Friends of the Williams-Addison House has submitted for the Commission's review a draft Statement of Significance for the application to amend the existing Historic Landmark designation. The Commission finds the draft Statement of Significance compelling, and approves it.

The Commission concludes that such an amended historic landmark designation would provide both the Old Georgetown Board and the Historic Preservation Review Board with a fuller appreciation of the historic significance of the Williams-Addison House that has not been provided by the owner of the property and which, in the view of the Commission, is critical to an informed review of the applications before both agencies; therefore,

The Commission hereby authorizes the Friends of the Williams-Addison House, through the professional consultants EHT Tracerics, Inc., to prepare an application to amend the Historic Landmark designation for the Williams-Addison House.

The Commission authorizes and directs its Chair to execute and to file said application with the Historic Preservation Review Board, pursuant to the Historic District and Historic Landmark Protection Act of 1978, on behalf of and in the name of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E.

We urge the Historic Preservation Review Board to approve the application to modify the existing landmark status of the Property.

1611 29th Street, Ross-Larson residence (OGB 07-170): (Commissioner Starrels left the meeting at this point.) Plans were presented for creating a garage with double doors where there is currently no garage. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Eason moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E advises the Old Georgetown Board and the DC government that it has serious reservations about the proposal because of (a) loss of street parking and safety concerns, and (b) the visual impact of the façade of the existing building. The garage doors as proposed are inconsistent with the historic appearance of the building.

3401 Dent Place, Rich residence (OGB 07-168): Plans were presented for adding a paved entrance that would extend onto public space and a fence enclosure. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution intended for the Old Georgetown Board, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E objects to the proposal to create essentially a private patio on what is for the most part public space. The look would be out of keeping with the location. The building directly across Dent Place has a similar angled corner that creates a spacious walkway around it, and the same look and feel should be preserved at 3401 Dent Place. We urge the Old Georgetown Board to deny this application and to require the owner to remove the un-permitted concrete pad that has been constructed.

Similarly the proposed fence is not in keeping with the vernacular of the immediate neighborhood and we urge that it not be permitted.

We urge also that the Old Georgetown Board consider carefully the design of the un-permitted window above the front door and take appropriate action to require its replacement with a suitable window.

Commissioner Lewis then moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution intended for the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E objects to the proposed use of public space by the owner of the property at 3401 Dent Place N.W. and urges the Department of Transportation to deny any requested public space permit for this location.

The proposed use of public space at this location would essentially turn a public sidewalk in a residential area into a private patio for one house. This would impede pedestrian access and safety, while unfairly devoting public property to purely private use.

In addition to denying a public space permit, the Department of Transportation should make sure the applicant removes the hazardous, un-permitted work the applicant recently caused to be performed in this public space.

3327 P Street, (OGB 07-174): Plans were presented with a roof cut-out for a roof deck. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Skelsey moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0

ANC 2E strongly objects to the alteration of the roof of 3327 P Street for creation of an observation deck due to the negative impact on this historic property and the loss of privacy for adjacent neighbors.

3329 Reservoir Road, Burnquist residence (OGB 07-160): Plans were presented for alterations to the front façade for dormer windows. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E does not object in concept to dormer windows for this location and urges the Old Georgetown Board to consider carefully the size, height and number of any dormer windows for this location; the relationship of the proposed dormer windows to the existing small windows that would be underneath the dormers; and the possibility of a further set-back from the street for the proposed windows.

3256 Jones Court, Manuel Salon (OGB 07-176): Plans were presented for a deck extension in the rear yard. After discussion by Commissioners and community members, Commissioner Lewis (Solomon second) moved to adopt the following resolution intended for the Old Georgetown Board, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E urges the Old Georgetown Board not to approve the proposed deck. The deck would be some ten feet off the ground and would cover much of the rear yard at 3256 Jones Court. It would sit well above the fence line and be highly visible from both public space along Q Street and from neighbors' properties. It is out of scale with the building to which it would be attached and out of keeping with the historic character and open setting of its location. ANC 2E urges the Old Georgetown Board to require the applicant to remove un-permitted deck - construction work on this property.

Commissioner Lewis then moved (Solomon second) to adopt the following resolution intended for the District of Columbia zoning authorities and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, which passed by a vote of 5-0:

ANC 2E opposes the issuance of a permit to build a deck over the rear yard of this property. ANC 2E believes the proposed deck would exceed permissible lot coverage for this property and is not authorized under applicable zoning rules. ANC 2E opposes any zoning exception for this deck because the deck would be very obtrusive and disruptive on the quiet enjoyment of neighboring properties.

At 11:27 p.m., with no further matters on the agenda, Commissioner Solomon moved (Lewis second) to adjourn this public session of ANC 2E. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted for the approval of ANC 2E,

Ron Lewis
Secretary, ANC 2E